

Two Old Friends Retiring After Long YWCA Careers

"They don't give any quarter," remarked Miss Ellen J. Windsor as she wheeled her 1948 Plymouth coupe out of the heavy Delaware Ave. traffic.

"I've been driving since 1909," she observed — "but not this same car. This has 80,884 miles on it. I put about half of that mileage on it myself."

She had just come from the home of a lifelong friend, Miss Marjorie H. Mossman of 109 Lancaster Ave. Both have been YWCA career workers and both will retire Sept. 27. They will be guests of honor at a reception in the Central YWCA.

These two gay-hearted ladies attended old Public School 56 together (it's now No. 30 at 709 Elmwood Ave.) and went on through Lafayette High.

Class Pictures Dated 1896

"Those were the days," Miss Mossman had said earlier in the quiet parlor of her home, "when little girls went to school in pinafores and aprons, had their hair in braids and wore bright hair ribbons."

Said Miss Windsor: "I have two class pictures dated 1896. I was in second grade then and you were in third."

Both laughed merrily at the recollection of the photograph.

"We've been friends all our lives," Miss Mossman said and in the twinkle of two pairs of eyes they were recalling care-free winter days when they went skating on a rink at the old Buffalo Tennis Club courts.

Sharp memories easily brought into focus "the big pot-bellied stove in the middle of the locker room, with a kettle of scalding water on top."

Director of Information

Miss Windsor explained: "We tossed our skates in to keep them from rusting." Those were the days of clamp skates fastened to shoes with a key the way ordinary roller skates now are secured.

Miss Windsor, who lives at 144 Jewett Parkway, is retiring after a quarter-century as director of Information Services at the Central YWCA.

Her work included supplying

general information to all comers, scheduling the use of the building for groups within and out of the organization, handling a switchboard and operating visual education equipment for various classes.

She was born at 703 W. Ferry St., where the Windsor Apartments now stand.

Was Assistant Treasurer

Her father was Millard Fillmore Windsor. He had a live-stock commission business and later operated the Windsor Soap Co. at Oneida and Bond Sts.

"I was assistant treasurer for 13 years," Miss Windsor said, "then went into YWCA work."

Before that, however, she was a pioneer in local Girl Scout activity and served as captain of Troop 6 from 1917 to 1924. She also was a member of the National League of Women's Service during World War I. It later became the Red Cross Motor Corps. Miss Windsor drove an ambulance during Buffalo's wartime "flu epidemic."

Kleinhan's Music Hall occupies the site where Miss Mossman was born. She is retiring after 16 years as reception desk secretary of the YWCA Residence at 245 North St.

Career Began in Old YWCA

"I've been jack-of-all-trades," she said, "helping to serve more than 200 permanent guests — young girls who are students and those beginning their careers. This has included guidance and counsel, supervision — even sorting their mail."

Miss Mossman's career first began in the old YWCA Building when it was at 19 W. Mohawk. There she was head of the information desk from 1919 to 1929. After a sabbatical she returned to this work.

Although she is an avid reader Miss Mossman does not regard this as a hobby. Similarly, Miss Windsor says her bird-watching is not a hobby.

When an inquisitive reporter asked "what do you intend to do after you retire?" they responded almost in chorus: "That, young man, is the \$64 question!"

By Phil Evans, Times Staff Writer
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